

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 W

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4817

S E C R E T CAIRO 4180

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN POW'S IN ISRAEL

1. UNDERSECRETARY LOUTFI ASKED ME TO CALL NOON TODAY. HE STARTED OUR TALK BY NOTING ISRAELI STATEMENT OF YES-TERDAY THAT 57 EGYPTIAN POW'S HAD BEEN CAPTURED AFTER EARLIER EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. FOLLOWING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND HE HAD TAKEN UP MATTER WITH IRC.

2. IRC HAS NOW BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GOE AND, AS OF THIS MORNING, HAS PROVIDED 49 NAMES OF SUCH PRISONERS. IRC IS ASKING ISRAEL FOR THE REMAINING NAMES. IRC HAS ALSO CONVEYED TO GOE THAT ISRAEL WANTS FOLLOWING IN RETURN FOR THESE RECENTLY CAPTURED POW'S:

A. THE BODIES OF ALL ISRAELIS KILLED WHOM THEY THINK MAY BE INTERRED IN EGYPTIAN HELD AREAS;

B. THE RETURN OF ISRAELI SPIES MIZRACHI AND LEVY;
AND

C. INFORMATION ON 45 STILL MISSING ISRAELIS OF WHOM 26 WERE PILOTS.

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3. LOUTFI SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD IRC THAT GOE COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY SUCH TERMS. GOE HOLDS THAT MATTER OF RETURN OF POW'S HELD BY ISRAELIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ISRAEL'S DEMAND FOR THE RETURN OF THE TWO SPIES. ON THE

MISSING ISRAELIS, LOUTFI ASSERTED GOE HAS NO INFORMATION. IN THIS CONNECTION HE CLAIMED 5,000 EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN MISSING SINCE 1967 ABOUT WHOM GOE HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION FROM ISRAELIS. AS FAR AS ISRAELI BODIES ARE CONCERNED, EGYPTIAN MILITARY HAS TOLD HIM IT KNOWS OF NO MORE BURIED IN EGYPTIAN AREA. LOUTFI HAS URGED IRC TO PRESS ISRAELIS TO RETURN POW'S.

4. LOUTFI ADDED THAT SADAT HAS REQUESTED MATTER BE RAISED WITH YOU "TO USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES FOR THE RETURN OF THE EGYPTIAN POW'S." I UNDERTOOK TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO YOU SOONEST.

5. LOUTFI SAID FAHMY IS ALSO BEING ADVISED OF SADAT'S ABOVE MENTIONED REQUEST TO YOU.
EILTS

SECRET

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